

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 7, 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claim 7 has been made consistent with claim 1. Claim 8 depends from claim 8 and is now therefore also consistent with claim 1. Claim 12 has been canceled. For these reasons it is submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

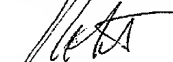
Claims 13-15 are now presented in independent form, however the ply orientation angle is greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article.

Claims 23-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 23-24 have been amended to further limit claim 1. Claims 25-27 have been changed to independent form, however in claims 26 and 27, the ply orientation angle is greater than or equal to about 23° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the article. Claim 28 has been canceled. For these reasons it is submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the

undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. 703- 872-9306) on December 30, 2003.



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